

Sustainability holds key role at RKW

RKW invests worldwide in sustainable production and solutions

Mannheim (Germany), October 11, 2021 – Sustainability plays a central role for the RKW Group. The RKW Group invests year-round and worldwide in modernizations and innovations in favor of sustainable products and processes. For the second time, the company and its approximately 3,000 employees have now also actively contributed to social commitment in a dedicated sustainability campaign.

The five-layer extrusion line commissioned in August at the Echte site, the latest of several investments in RKW's center of excellence for industrial packaging, exemplifies the RKW Group's commitment to modernization towards greater sustainability in production and solutions. As a result, the proportion of recycled raw materials can be continuously increased. Thanks to innovative formulations, the new equipment will also enable the production of high-quality plastic films with a high-recycled content and without any loss of quality in the future.

At the same time, the RKW Group is investing in both a new five-shift and a nine-shift plant with MDO (Machine Direction Orientation) at the Petersaurach site, which will go into operation at the beginning of 2022. The planned nine-layer machine will enable the production of MDO films with and without barrier properties.

The RKW Group has many years of experience in MDO technology and now offers MDO-PE solutions for packaging applications. A key component of this strategy is RKW Horizon – a 100 percent recyclable polyethylene (PE) MDO film for mono-material laminate packaging solutions. With the new nine-layer MDO plant at the Petersaurach site, the RKW Group is expanding its on-site production capacities and investing in this technology of the future.

RKW is going even further. To ensure that overall energy consumption is reduced, RKW is modernizing its production processes, relying on new, more efficient machines, and cooling systems with up-to-date measurement and control technology that demonstrably consume less energy and water.

Last year, the Group switched all its German sites to electricity from renewable energy sources. Since June 2021, the sites in France and Belgium have also been sourcing energy from renewable sources. In total, this is expected to save 100,000 tons of CO₂ per year. Other sites in Europe will also be converted in the

near future.

Strategic development of the product portfolio

The RKW Group is committed to its responsibility as a plastics manufacturer and works continuously with its customers and partners to give plastics a sustainable perspective. In doing so, RKW is increasingly focusing on both the use of recycled materials and the development of easily recyclable products.

With the further development of its innovative packaging solution for powdery goods, RKW ProVent, RKW is contributing to greater sustainability and resource conservation. The packaging solution consists of only one material, polyethylene, and can therefore be fully recycled. In addition, the plastic bags can also be produced in a CO₂-neutral way.

Living sustainability together

Not only the company, but also the 3,000 employees of the RKW Group actively contributed to more climate protection as part of this year's sustainability campaign. The RKW Group's 19 sites worldwide took part in the summer campaign with numerous environmental protection activities:

- RKW again took part in the Frankenthal "RhineCleanUp" this year. Together with the other participants, 25 colleagues from the Mannheim headquarters cleaned the banks of the Rhine - a total of 500 kg of waste was collected.
- At the sites in Wasserburg/Bavaria, Petersaurach/Bavaria and in Nordhorn/Lower Saxony, numerous employees took part in several trash collection campaigns.
- Used batteries were recycled at the RKW plant in Guangzhou/China from August 2020 to August 2021.

The RKW Global Team Run also took place for the first time as part of the summer campaign. From July 1 to September 11, 140 participants covered more than 34,000 kilometers, raising a total of 17,000 euros for a good cause. With this donation, the RKW Group supports the Care for Rare Foundation, which is committed to researching and developing suitable therapies for children with rare diseases.

For more information about RKW, please visit: www.rkw-group.com.

The RKW Group

The RKW Group is an independent, privately owned company headquartered in Mannheim, Germany and one of the world's foremost manufacturers of excellent film solutions. RKW is the

market leader in the areas of hygiene and agricultural films, films for the beverage industry and packaging for powdery goods. In addition, the company makes films and nonwovens for medical applications, for the chemical and converting industries as well as for the construction sector. RKW's sustainable films enable its customers to improve the daily life of consumers all over the world.

In the fiscal year 2020, RKW generated total sales of EUR 784 million. About 3,000 employees process 349,000 metric tons of plastic materials at 19 locations around the world. True to the corporate slogan "When excellence matters", the company, which was founded in 1957, offers outstanding performance in terms of quality and service. Respect and reliability are the core values of RKW and form the basis of the company's success.

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Image



Caption

Employees and management of RKW in Mannheim participated at the international RhineCleanUp Day for the second time, thus underlining their engagement for the community and society.

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